

Walker Says Marriage Trouble led to 'Impulsive' Spy Plan

By Ruth Marcus
Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, April 28—
Depressed over his failing marriage
and looking for money he thought
might help fix it, John Anthony
Walker Jr. made an "impulsive de-
cision" to spy for the Soviet Union,
testify here today.

"I was depressed and I committed
desperate act," Walker said in his
first public description of his 18
years of espionage. "I contacted the
Soviet Union and agreed to sell se-
crets to them."

Walker's testimony comes in the
third week of the trial of his friend
and former Navy colleague, Jerry
Whitworth, the last of four
men accused in the Walker espionage
ring to face trial.

Walker's testimony provided the
most direct and graphic evidence

linking Whitworth, a retired Navy
communications specialist, with the
espionage ring that Walker master-
minded and that authorities have
described as the most damaging in
decades.

Smiling nervously at times and
fiddling with a pencil as he testified,
Walker detailed his espionage ac-
tivities from their start in early
1968, when he "simply walked in
the front door" of the Soviet Em-
bassy in Northwest Washington and
offered to sell information about
codes, the most sensitive of military
secrets.

Walker's testimony, which is to
continue Tuesday, included a de-
scription of how he allegedly re-
cruited Whitworth—a man who he
believed had "larceny in his
heart"—to become his partner in
the espionage operation.

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John A. Walker Jr. hides face upon
arriving to testify at Whitworth trial.

Turkey To Fortify

By Zeynep Aksoy
Associated Press

ANKARA, April 28—Embassy
of Libya's embassy here supplied
hand grenades with which two Lib-
yans planned to attack a U.S. mil-
itary officers' club in Ankara during
a wedding party, a prosecutor said
today.

The grenades were brought into
Turkey under cover of diplomatic
immunity, the prosecutor, Ulku
Coskun, said in an interview. He
would not elaborate, but he said Ali
Zeyyani, Libya's consul in Istanbul,
knew of the plan.

Two Libyans, identified as Ali
Ecefli Ramadan and Recep Muhtar
Rohoma Tarhuni, both 30, were
captured April 18 near the officers'
club in the residential district of

tor-
tion of
prison
Author-
ans were
from the club
18, three days
on Libya. They
dered them to halt
bag containing six hand
and another team of police
the Libyans nearby.

The American air raids on
followed U.S. claims that Libya

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■ Abu Nidal's group claims it killed British tourist.

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Bidders, Critics Encircle \$4 Billion Plan to Fortify Embassies

By Joanne Omang
Washington Post Staff Writer

Major construction companies
have begun maneuvering for a
share of the State Department's
\$4 billion plan to fortify U.S. em-
bassies around the world, but some
senators wonder whether the col-
ossal building project might pro-
vide more of a windfall to contrac-
tors than security for Americans

A score of companies, including

Bechtel and TRW Corp., are ex-
pected by mid-May to bid for a half
dozen project manager positions,
which the State Department will
finance with \$130 million in total
service fees. That is in addition to
the \$3.4 billion budgeted for con-
struction costs, and the \$900 mil-
lion allocated to beefing up commu-
nications security.

Altogether, the plan calls for
building 79 new embassies or mis-
sions, reconstructing 175 more and
renovating 10,000 residences over-

seas to be more resistant to terror-
ist attacks.

Because of a "buy American" pol-
icy, U.S. businesses will supply
nearly everything except unskilled
labor to even the most remote con-
struction site. The products needed
for the five-year effort range from
granite blocks to new rugs to
armored cars, as well as guard
training and delicate electronic
gear.

Sky-high cost estimates for some
of the planned facilities have raised

eyebrows on Capitol Hill. The Gen-
eral Accounting Office, after exam-
ining security projects now under-
way at U.S. facilities in 15 coun-
tries, recently reported habitual
cost overruns, bungled construction
work and serious security lapses—
and Congress is worried that such
problems could recur on a much
larger scale.

The Senate Foreign Relations
Committee opens hearings Wednes-
day on the security improvement
bill, which was drafted in response

to a June 1985 panel headed by re-
tired Adm. Bobby Inman, former
head of the National Security Agen-
cy. It passed the House 389 to 7
last month, with few members ea-
ger to oppose the measure amid a
flurry of terrorist activities abroad.

But some senators have reser-
vations. For example, in a list of
105 questions, Chairman Richard
G. Lugar (R-Ind.) and ranking mi-
nority member Claiborne Pell (D-
R.I.) asked the State Department

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SECURITY, From A1

why the \$33 million facility specified for Oman needed thick outer wall facings of a particular fine granite available only in Vermont.

Lugar and Pell said the State Department wants to put up buildings costing \$20 million to \$39 million in places such as Cotonou, Benin; Yaounde, Cameroon; Rangoon, Burma; Mogadishu, Somalia; and Chang Mai, Thailand. The \$33.4 million for a new compound in Belize equals 20 percent of that country's gross national product, they noted.

"Do we really have to spend so much for facilities where we have very small staffs?" the senators asked.

"Construction costs bear little relation to the country's size, importance or GNP," the State Department replied. "Virtually all the materials contained in the building are imported from the United States."

Under the new plans, the department will spend \$107 million to buy and ship U.S.-made furniture, lights, wallpaper and so on to its new and renovated embassies. The price is about double what the furnishings would cost without shipping, department officials said.

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), demanded in a sheaf of 120 questions that the department "please explain what relationship there is between new office furniture . . . and protection against terrorism."

Senators also have expressed concern about reports that one of the prime bidders on the Oman project was a Greece-based construction firm owned by a Palestinian group, the Consolidated Contractors Co. The department replied that many foreign firms are bidders.

Sen. Edward Zorinsky (D-Neb.), asked the GAO to investigate reports that anyone with \$1,000 can buy detailed architectural blueprints for any of the proposed buildings. "If true, this seems to be a very serious breach in security," Zorinsky said. In a separate statement, the senator said he backed "legitimate requests" to boost embassy security but objected to "feathering already well-appointed nests" of diplomats.

The massive construction project, which one interested corporation said has "no direct parallel in recent history," would drastically

alter the lifestyles and working conditions of thousands of U.S. officials.

It also would put about 1,300 employees under a new Office of Diplomatic Security in the State Department and set up a special board to investigate security failures and fix blame. Intelligence community officials are concerned that the program could force them to answer to inexperienced bureaucrats within a new mini-empire at the State Department. A new security corps run out of Foggy Bottom would be responsible for protecting foreign diplomats in the United States.

Many firms put in preliminary proposals to handle all this months ago, long before Congress took up the idea. Although no company would comment on its submission, The Washington Post reviewed a copy of one offered by The Fluor Corp. and two other California firms.

They offered a preliminary "partnership plan" in which they would "function as an extension of the Department of State staff" to draw up a "master plan" of construction and set up a "systems integration and training facility" in Washington. The proposal promises to produce the kind of "vulnerability assessment" to guide planning at each site and provide "justification for requesting additional allocations."

The prospect of such "additional allocations" is what worries some members of Congress.

The GAO report on existing security efforts found "continued instances of disputes" among the State Department, other agencies, overseas posts and contractors over costs, plans and results. The study found that 13 security reconstruction projects budgeted at \$177.5 million will now cost an extra \$89 million because of delays.

"Even when completed, these buildings may not meet all current standards," the report said. For example, five will not have the 100-foot setback from the street that the State Department wants. A program to improve perimeter security at 70 posts was budgeted for \$40 million, but contractors now say it will cost \$91 million and cover only 37 posts, the study said.

Committee staff members said so many problems with only two or three projects a year raised questions about whether the State Department has the capacity to manage the ambitious new plans.

The GAO expressed "serious questions" about guard hiring, train-



Makeshift security: Concrete tubs have guarded em

ing and background check procedures. One embassy seeking to improve its security system last year called upon the cleaning crew it hired daily to guard the ambassador's residence. At another embassy, a school guard left his gun in a bathroom where a child found it. In Venezuela four years ago, a succession of contract guards quit in irritation when they were required to walk the ambassador's poodle.

Before Foreign Relations Committee staff member John Ziolkowski visited the Somalia site earlier this month to look at the State Department's \$33.6 million construction plans there, the embassy cabled the department that \$6.5 million could be saved by leasing or purchasing an existing building. State cabled back that "the question of construction, lease, purchase should not be raised" with Ziolkowski "nor should [the Somalia] post change [cost] estimates."

The man trying to answer all these questions is Robert E. Lamb, assistant secretary of state for administration and security. He said in an interview that Congress shares the blame for construction delays by doling out only partial project funding every year.

While nothing in the plan would have prevented the recent shooting of a U.S. communications officer in Sudan, he said, training funds it provides might have helped him be a tougher target. Although terrorists will be likely to choose easier targets when embassy security is tighter, "it cannot be left to the individual to decide the amount of protection," he said.

He added that it is "a typical bureaucratic response" to say that

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